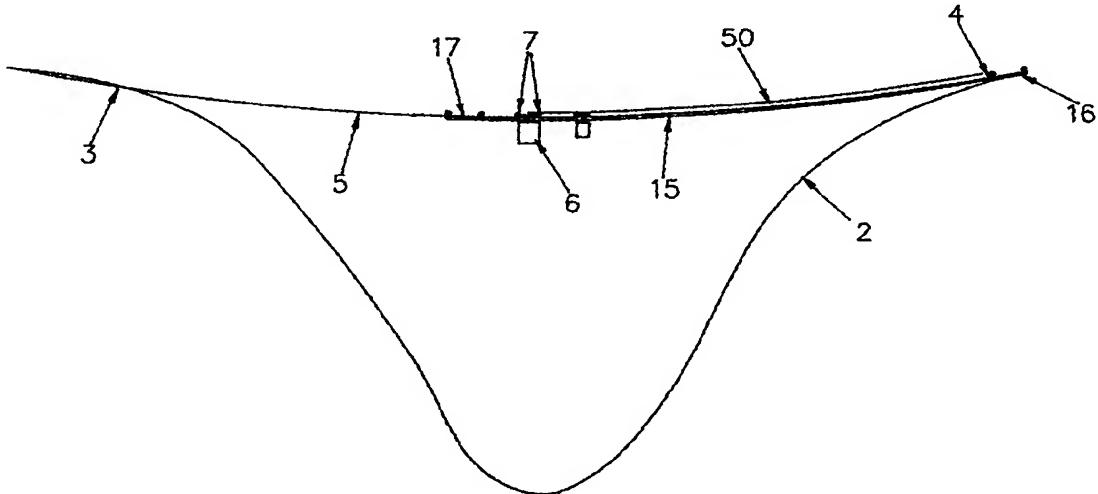


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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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(54) Title: RECREATIONAL APPARATUS



(57) Abstract

Bungey jumping apparatus which includes one or more cables (5), means for securing the cable or cables (5) above a jump cavity (2) so as to extend across the jump cavity, a jumping platform (6) supported on one of the cables (5) and securable in a predetermined position on the cable, a bungey securable to the jumping platform (6), and transporting means for carrying jumpers from one edge of the jump cavity (2) to the jumping platform (6) along the cable (5).

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Title: RECREATIONAL APPARATUS**Technical Field**

The present invention relates to apparatus for bungy jumping.

Background Art

5 The recreational activity of bungy jumping is well-known:- a jumper is secured by a harness or by an ankle tether to one end of a bungy, the other end of which is secured to a jumping platform or other strong point. The original bungys were vines, but modern bungys are heavy multiple strand elastic cords or elastic straps.

Bungy jumping usually takes place from bridges or from purpose built jumping platforms
10 which extend outwards from one side of a natural or man made cavity such as a river gorge or a railway or road cutting. As used herein, the term "jump cavity" means any natural or man-made cavity of suitable dimensions (both of height and width) for bungy jumping.

Bridges and jumping platforms of necessity are permanent fixtures and thus limit the
15 locations where bungy jumping is possible. It is also known to carry out bungy jumps from helicopters. Whilst this can be done at any location, the high cost of positioning helicopters is a limiting factor, and also the accident risk with jumping from a helicopter is higher than with conventional bungy jumping.

Disclosure of Invention

20 It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide apparatus for bungy jumping which can be installed and dismantled relatively easily and which therefore may be used at a much wider range of different locations, whilst providing bungy jumping facilities in the same price range and with similar safety factors to conventional bungy jumping from bridges or fixed jumping platforms.

25 The present invention makes it possible to utilize for bungy jumping a very wide range of different jump cavities e.g. natural cavities such as river gorges or valleys between hills, man-made cavities such as railway cuttings or spaces between adjacent high buildings, or cavities which are part natural and part man-made. The jump cavities usually would be outdoors, but could be indoors e.g. in the interior of a large building. It also would be
30 possible to create a jump cavity between and below two tethered balloons.

The present invention provides bungy jumping apparatus, said apparatus including: one or more cables, said cables being mutually substantially parallel if two or more cables are present; means for securing the or each of said cables above a jump cavity (as hereinbefore defined) such that one cable or two or more cables in combination extends 5 across said cavity; a jumping platform supported upon at least one of said cables; said jumping platform being securable in a predetermined position on said cable; at least one bungy securable to said jumping platform; and transporting means for transporting jumpers from adjacent the edge of the jump cavity to a selected position along the or each said cable.

10 The edges of the jump cavity may be level with each other in a horizontal plane, but need not be:- one edge may be higher than the other.

The jumping platform may be fixed on the cable or may be mobile; if the jumping platform is mobile, it may also be used as the means for transporting jumpers to said selected position. If the jumping platform is fixed in position on the cable, a separate transporting 15 means is used to ferry jumpers along the cable out to the jumping platform. This separate transporting means preferably is a gondola, but may be for example, a walkway supported from the cable, or a boson's chair or a flying fox. More than one transporting means may be used - jumpers may be transported to the jumping platform from each side of the jump cavity.

20 The transporting means may be supported on the primary cable (i.e. the same cable as the jumping platform), and may be independently powered to move along that cable. Preferably, the transporting means is moved by a second, drive cable in the form of an endless loop. The drive cable may extend right across the jump cavity or may extend 25 from one side of the jump cavity to a point part way along the primary cable, at or beyond the position of the jumping platform.

As used herein, the terms 'primary cable' and 'drive cable', although used in the singular, also include multiple parallel primary cables and multiple parallel drive cables, respectively.

30 Preferably, the drive cable is driven in known manner by a driving bull wheel mounted adjacent one side of the jump cavity. At the other end of the drive cable run, the drive cable passes around a second, non-driven, bull wheel. If the drive cable extends right across the jump cavity, the second bull wheel is mounted at the other side of the jump cavity to the driving bull wheel. If the drive cable extends only to a point part way along

the primary cable, the second bull wheel is supported from the primary cable, and may be counter weighted by a pendulum counter weight for stability. Alternatively, the primary cable may be omitted altogether and the second bull wheel supported by a further cable extending from said other side of the jump cavity to the second bull wheel.

- 5 In another embodiment, the transporting means is supported upon the drive cable, and may be used in combination with a fixed jumping platform mounted upon the primary cable or, the transporting means may be used also as a jumping platform. A counterweight to the transporting means also may be mounted on the drive cable, in opposition to the transport means. Most preferably, two transporting means are used,
- 10 mounted upon the drive cable and spaced apart on the drive cable so that both may be used alternately as jumping platforms:- the first transporting means is moved adjacent the edge of the jump cavity and loaded with jumpers and then moved over the jump cavity for the jumpers to jump, whilst the second transporting means is moved adjacent the edge of the jump cavity to be loaded with jumpers. If the drive cable extends right
- 15 across the jump cavity and two transporting means are used, then it would be possible to load one transporting means at one edge of the jump cavity and the other transporting means at the other edge of the jump cavity.

Brief Description of Drawings

- 20 By way of example only, preferred embodiments of the present invention are described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Fig. 1 shows in diagrammatic form a cross-section through a jump cavity and the apparatus of a first embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 2 shows a side view of part of the apparatus of Fig. 1, on a larger scale;

Fig. 2a shows a variant on Fig. 2.

- 25 Fig. 3 shows a side view of a transporting means;

Fig. 4 shows a diagrammatic plan view of a second embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 5 shows a side view of part of the apparatus of Fig. 4, on a larger scale; and

Fig. 5a shows a diagrammatic plan view of a variant of Fig. 4 and 5;

Fig. 6 shows a diagrammatic cross-section through a jump cavity and the apparatus of a third embodiment of the present invention; and

Fig. 7 shows a diagrammatic plan view of a fourth embodiment of the present invention.

Best Modes of Carrying Out Invention

5 Referring to figures 1-3 of the drawings, a jump cavity 2 is shown as a naturally occurring gorge between hills 3 and 4. A primary cable 5 is anchored between hills 3 and 4 by known means, spanning the gorge. A jumping platform 6 (Fig. 2) is mounted on the primary cable 5 using support wheels 7 of known type. The jumping platform 6 normally is clamped in position (using known means) but can be moved along the primary cable 5
10 if necessary for maintenance or repair or because of the risk of high winds.

The jumping platform 6 provides a roof 8, side walls 9 and a floor 10. The lower parts of the walls 9 are partially cut away to provide four spaced exit positions 11, from which jumpers can jump. A lift beam 12 for mounting a recovery winch is rigidly secured to the main support post 13. The support post 13 is secured at one end to the floor 10 and the
15 other end to the support bracket 7a for the mounting wheels 7. The support post 13 also supports a pair of guide wheels 14 mounted just below the support bracket 7a. The guide wheels 14 receive between them an endless drive cable 15 which runs as a loop between a driving bull wheel 16 mounted at one edge of the jump cavity and a guide bull wheel 17. The bull wheel 17 is supported from the primary cable 5 on the far side of the
20 jumping platform 6 from the driving bull wheel 16. The bull wheel 17 is supported from a bracket 17a which is clamped to the primary cable 5 in known manner. Fig. 2a shows an alternative arrangement in which the guide bull wheel 17 is mounted on the roof 8 of the jumping platform 6, on an axle 17a secured to the roof 8.

Fig. 3 shows a transporting means in the form of an access gondola 18. The gondola 18
25 is supported from the primary cable 5 by wheels 19 and is moved along the primary cable by the drive cable 15 which is secured to the support strut 20 of the gondola.

The above described apparatus is used as follows:- the jumping platform 6 is secured in position on the primary cable 5. The gondola 18 is moved by the drive cable 15 over to the hill 4, and jumpers enter the gondola at that position and are ferried out to the
30 jumping platform 6. The gondola is temporarily secured to the jumping platform 6 (for example by means of a gang plank locked between the gondola and the jumping platform) and the jumpers move across from the gondola to the jumping platform. Each

jumper in turn carries out his or her bungy jump, and is hauled back up to the jumping platform or lowered to the ground, in known manner. When all of the jumpers have completed their jumps, they are taken back to the hill 4 in the gondola or collected from the ground landing area, as appropriate. More jumpers can then be loaded into the 5 gondola, and the sequence repeated.

Referring to figures 4 and 5, components similar to components in figures 1-3 are given the same reference numerals. The primary cable 5, drive cable 15 and bull wheels 16 and 17 are mounted as described with reference to figures 1-3. However, instead of a single fixed jumping platform and a transport gondola, two mobile jumping platforms 10 which also function as transporting means, are used.

Each of the mobile jumping platforms, 23, 24, is clamped to the drive cable 15 and moved with that cable. The jumping platforms 23, 24 are spaced apart on the cable 15 so that when one jumping platform is in the selected jumping position near the bull wheel 17, the other jumping platform is adjacent the hill 4 to allow jumpers to be loaded into the 15 jumping platform. Thus, the two jumping platforms are used alternately, with one platform being loaded with jumpers whilst jumpers jump from the other platform.

The loading fluctuations on the drive cable 15 caused by the jumping platforms 23, 24 being loaded/unloaded and the jumpers jumping, can cause the bull wheel 17 to tilt out of the horizontal plane. To prevent or restrain this movement, the bull wheel 17 is 20 provided with a pendulum counter weight 25 mounted at the lower end of a long stay 26, the other end of which is attached to the centre of the bull wheel 17. A pendulum counter weight of this type may also be used with the bull wheel shown in figures 1-3.

It will be appreciated that bull wheel 17 may be positioned on hill 3 if preferred; i.e. section 5b of the cable 5 is omitted.

25 The arrangement of cables shown in Fig. 4 and 5 may be varied as shown in Fig. 5a by omitting the primary cable 5 and replacing the section 5b of the cable 5 with a further cable 5c (shown in broken lines) extending between the hill 3 and bull wheel 17, so that bull wheel 17 is supported on one side by the further cable 5c and on the other side by the cables 15.

30 The arrangement shown in figures 5a may be varied still further, by positioning the bull wheel 17 on hill 3 and omitting the cable 5c altogether. It will be appreciated that the mobile jumping platforms 23, 24 could then be used as described with reference to

figures 4 and 5 above, or one mobile jumping platform could be loaded from one hill 3, and the other mobile jumping platform could be loaded from the other hill 4. If the bull wheel 17 is located on land, then the pendulum counter weight is not needed.

In any of the embodiments described above, the or each loading area on the 5 corresponding hill may be provided with a parking arrangement whereby the loading gondola 18 or the mobile jumping platform 23, 24, on approaching the parking area is disconnected from the drive cable (if separate from the supporting cable) and lifted off the supporting cable by a hinged guide rail and is supported in the parking area by independent support means. The loaded gondola or mobile jumping platform is then 10 lifted back onto the supporting cable to be taken to the jump zone as described above.

Fig. 6 shows the simplest possible system, using minimal apparatus. In this embodiment, only a single cable 30 is used, supported between hills 31 and 32 on each 15 side of a jump cavity 33. Either one of the hills (31) is higher than the other, as shown, or the cable 30 is strung loosely so as to sag in the middle. A mobile jumping platform 34 in the form of an un-powered conveyance such as a boson's chair or gondola or flying 20 fox travels under gravity down the cable 30 from the higher hill 31 to a selected point on the cable, and is then clamped to the cable by known means whilst the person or persons on the jumping platform complete their jumps and either are released from the bungy adjacent the bottom of the jump cavity or are hauled back up to the jumping 25 platform. The jumping platform is then pulled back to the hill 31 by means of a retrieval rope 35. Alternatively, the jumping platform 34 could be semi-permanently fixed in position over the jump cavity and jumpers could travel out to the jumping platform by means of a walkway 36. Another possibility is for the jumping platform 34 to be independently powered e.g. via a small motor and driving wheels indicated by reference numerals 34a in Fig. 6.

Fig. 7 shows a further embodiment, in which a jumping platform 6 is mounted upon four parallel primary cables 40 which are anchored across a jump cavity 2 in known manner. The jumping platform 6 is semi-permanently mounted in position at the desired jumping 30 position above the jump cavity 2, but can be moved along the primary cables 40 if necessary for maintenance or safety.

A pair of spaced powered bull wheels 41, 42 is mounted at one side of the jump cavity 2 and a further pair of spaced guide bull wheels 43, 44 is mounted on the roof of the jumping platform 6. An endless drive cable 45 passes around both pairs of bull wheels

and can be driven in either direction, as indicated by arrows A and B, by driving the bull wheels 41, 42 in the required direction.

A transporting means in the form of an access gondola 46 is secured at a fixed position on the drive cable 45, and a counter weight 47 having approximately the same weight as 5 the loaded gondola 46 also is secured to the drive cable 45, at a fixed position diagonally opposite the gondola 46. Jumpers are loaded onto the gondola 46 with the gondola 46 approximately positioned as shown in Fig. 7, and the drive cable 45 is driven by the bull wheels 41 and 42 in the direction of Arrow B to move the gondola 46 out across the jump cavity 2 to the jumping platform 6. The jumpers then dis-embark from the gondola 46 10 onto the jumping platform 6 and complete their jumps in the usual way. When the jumps are completed, the jumpers are retrieved to the jumping platform 6, embark in the gondola 46 and are carried back to the landing area adjacent the bull wheels 41 and 42, by driving the drive cable 45 in the direction indicated by Arrow A. The counter weight 47 moves with the drive cable 45, balancing the weight of the gondola 46 as the drive 15 cable 45 is reciprocated.

In general, with most of the above described embodiments, it is necessary to supply power to the jumping platform. The power supply to a stationary jumping platform may be by a permanent fixed power cable 50 (Fig. 1 only). The power supply to a mobile jumping platform may be by means of a reeved cable 52 (Fig. 4 only) between the 20 platform and the adjacent hill. If the system includes a continuously moving drive cable, it is possible to use this cable to generate power either mechanically or by a generator 51 as indicated diagrammatically in Fig. 2.

CLAIMS:-

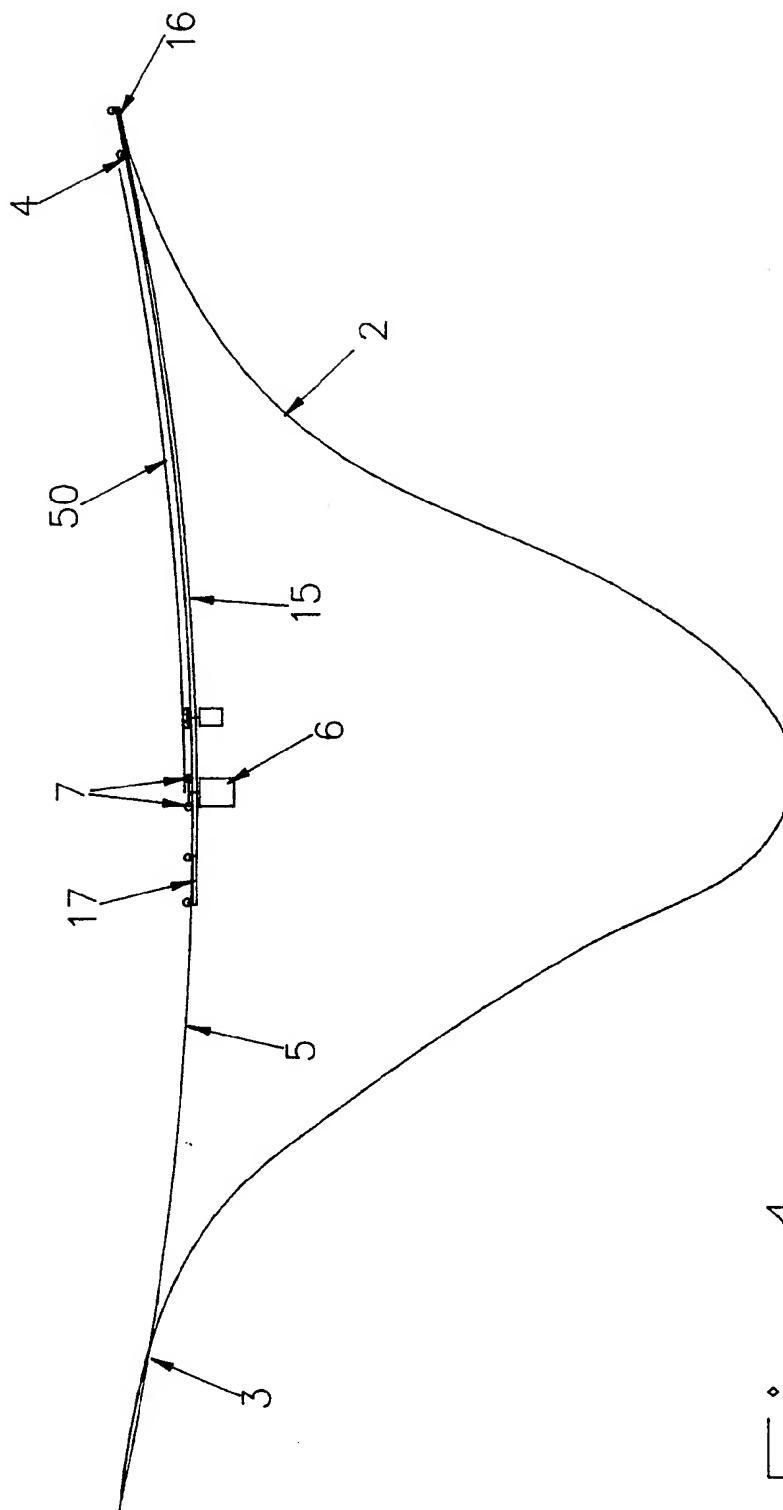
1. Bungy jumping apparatus, said apparatus including: one or more cables, said cables being mutually substantially parallel if two or more cables are present; means for securing the or each of said cables above a jump cavity (as hereinbefore defined) such that one cable or two or more cables in combination extends across said cavity; a jumping platform supported upon one of said cables; said jumping platform being securable in a predetermined position on said cable; at least one bungy securable to said jumping platform; and transporting means for transporting jumpers from adjacent the edge of the jump cavity to a selected position along the or each said cable.
10
2. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said one or more cables comprise a primary cable and a secondary cable both of which extend across said jump cavity; said secondary cable comprising a drive cable formed as an endless loop.
3. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said one or more cables comprise a primary cable which extends across said jump cavity, and a secondary cable comprising a drive cable formed as an endless loop which extends from one side of said jump cavity to a selected point part way along said primary cable.
15
4. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said one or more cables comprise a single primary cable which extends across said jump cavity.
- 20 5. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said one or more cables comprises a drive cable formed as an endless loop.
6. Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said one or more cables comprises a drive cable formed as an endless loop which extends from one side of said jump cavity to a point part way across said jump cavity, and a further cable secured between the drive cable and the other side of said jump cavity.
25
7. Apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein said jumping platform is mobile.
8. Apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein said jumping platform also provides said transporting means.

9. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 2-4 wherein said jumping platform is supported upon said primary cable .
10. Apparatus as claimed in claim 9 wherein said jumping platform is releasably fixed in position on said primary cable.
- 5 11. Apparatus as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10 wherein said transporting means is supported upon said primary cable.
12. Apparatus as claimed in claimed 11 wherein said transporting means is powered independently of said one or more cables.
- 10 13. Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3 wherein said jumping platform and said transporting means are supported upon said primary cable and said transporting means is powered by said drive cable.
14. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 9-13 wherein said transporting means comprises a gondola.
- 15 15. Apparatus as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10 wherein said transporting means comprises a walkway supported from the primary cable.
16. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 9-12 wherein said transporting means comprises a boson's chair.
17. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 9-12 wherein said transporting means comprises a flying fox.
- 20 18. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 2, 3, 5, or 6, wherein said jumping platform is supported upon said drive cable and also forms said transporting means.
19. Apparatus as claimed in claim 18 further comprising a second jumping platform supported upon said drive cable, said first and second jumping platforms being supported upon said drive cable at positions spaced apart from each other.
- 25 20. Apparatus as claimed in claim 19 wherein said first and second jumping platforms are positioned upon said drive cable such that the first jumping platform may be positioned adjacent one side of said jump cavity when the second jumping platform is positioned suitably for jumpers to jump into the jump cavity.

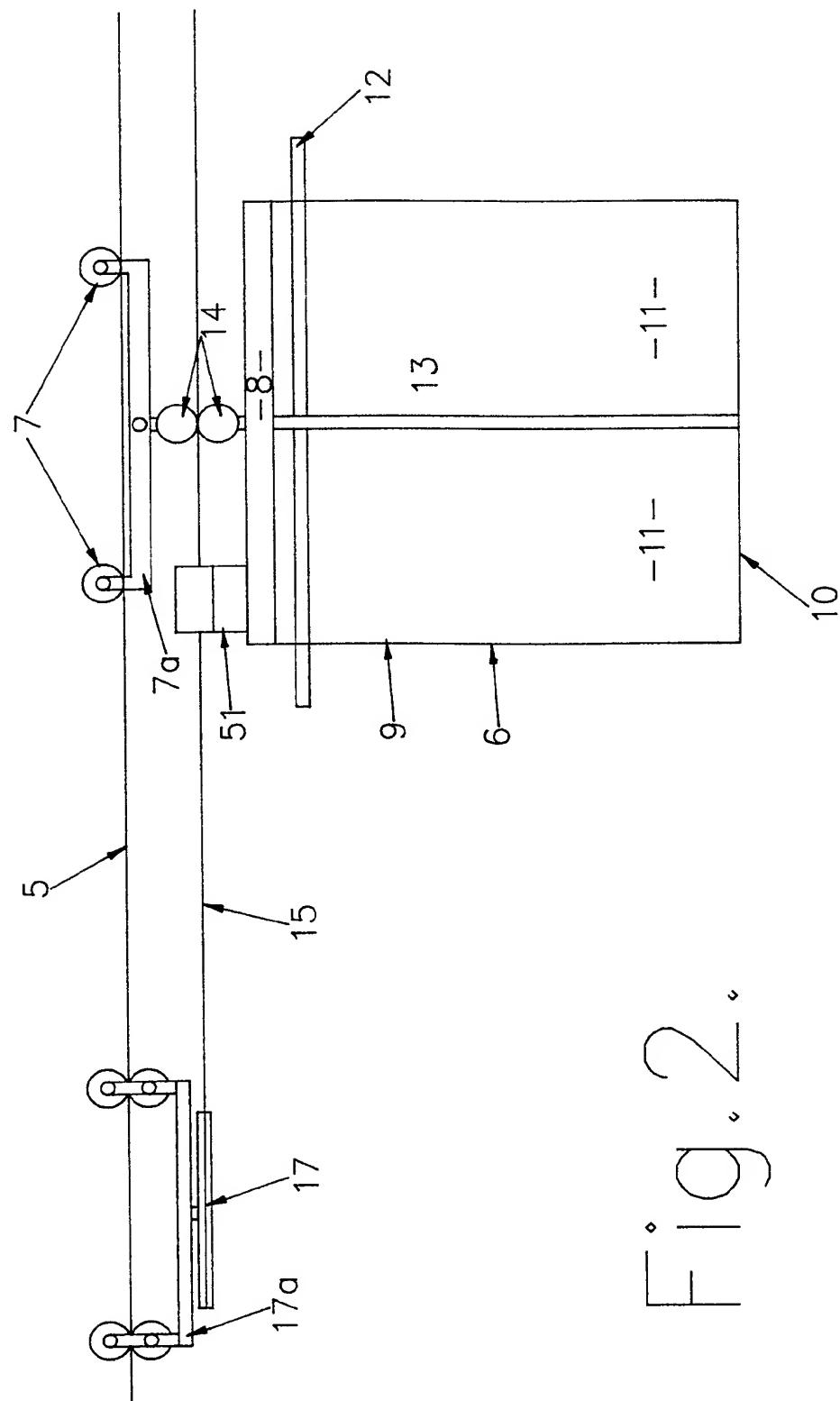
21. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 18 or 19, wherein said drive cable comprises an endless loop of cable running around spaced bull wheels, at least one of which is driveable.
22. Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 or claim 5 wherein said drive cable comprises an endless loop of cable running around spaced bull wheels, at least one of which is driveable, one of the bull wheels being supported from the ground adjacent one side of the jump cavity and another of the bull wheels being supported from the ground adjacent the other side of the jump cavity.
5
23. Apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein said drive cable comprises an endless loop of cable running around spaced bull wheels, at least one of which is driveable; one of said bull wheels being supported from the ground adjacent one side of the jump cavity and another of said bull wheels being supported from the primary cable.
10
24. Apparatus as claimed in claim 23 wherein said another of said bull wheels is secured to the roof of the jumping platform.
25. Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein said drive cable comprises an endless loop of cable running around spaced bull wheels, at least one of which is driveable; one of said bull wheels being supported from the ground adjacent one side of the jump cavity and another of said bull wheels being secured to said further cable.
15
26. Apparatus as claimed in claim 4 wherein said jumping platform is mobile and also provides said transporting means, and comprises an un-powered conveyance arranged to travel to a jumping position along said cable under gravity and provided with a retrieval rope for returning said conveyance to a start position adjacent one side of the jump cavity.
20
27. Apparatus as claimed in claim 26 wherein said un-powered conveyance comprises a gondola.
25
28. Apparatus as claimed in claimed 26 wherein said un-powered conveyance comprises a boson's chair.
29. Apparatus is claimed in claim 26 wherein said un-powered conveyance comprises a flying fox.

30. Apparatus as claimed in claim 23 or claim 24 wherein said another of said bull wheels is provided with a counter weight in the form of a pendulum secured to and suspended beneath said bull wheel.
31. Apparatus as claimed in claimed 10 wherein power is supplied to said jumping platform by means of a power cable.
32. Apparatus as claimed in claim 7 wherein power is supplied to said jumping platform by means of a reeved power cable.
33. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 2, 3, 5 or 6 wherein power can be supplied to said jumping platform by means of a generator powered by said drive cable.

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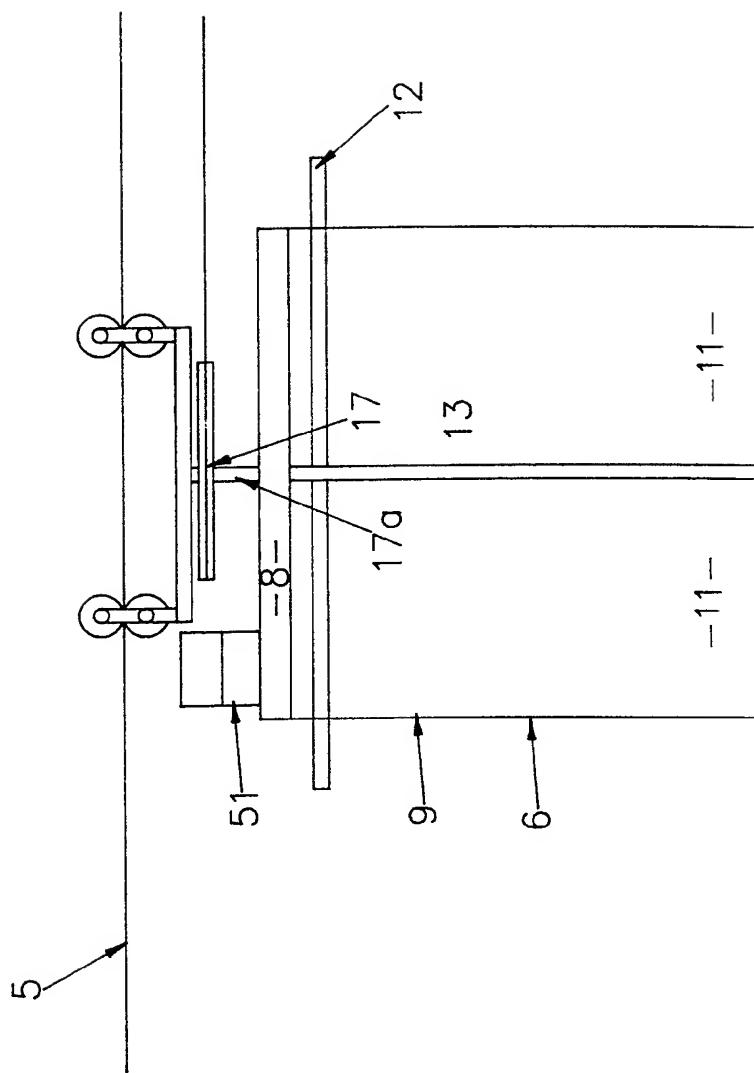
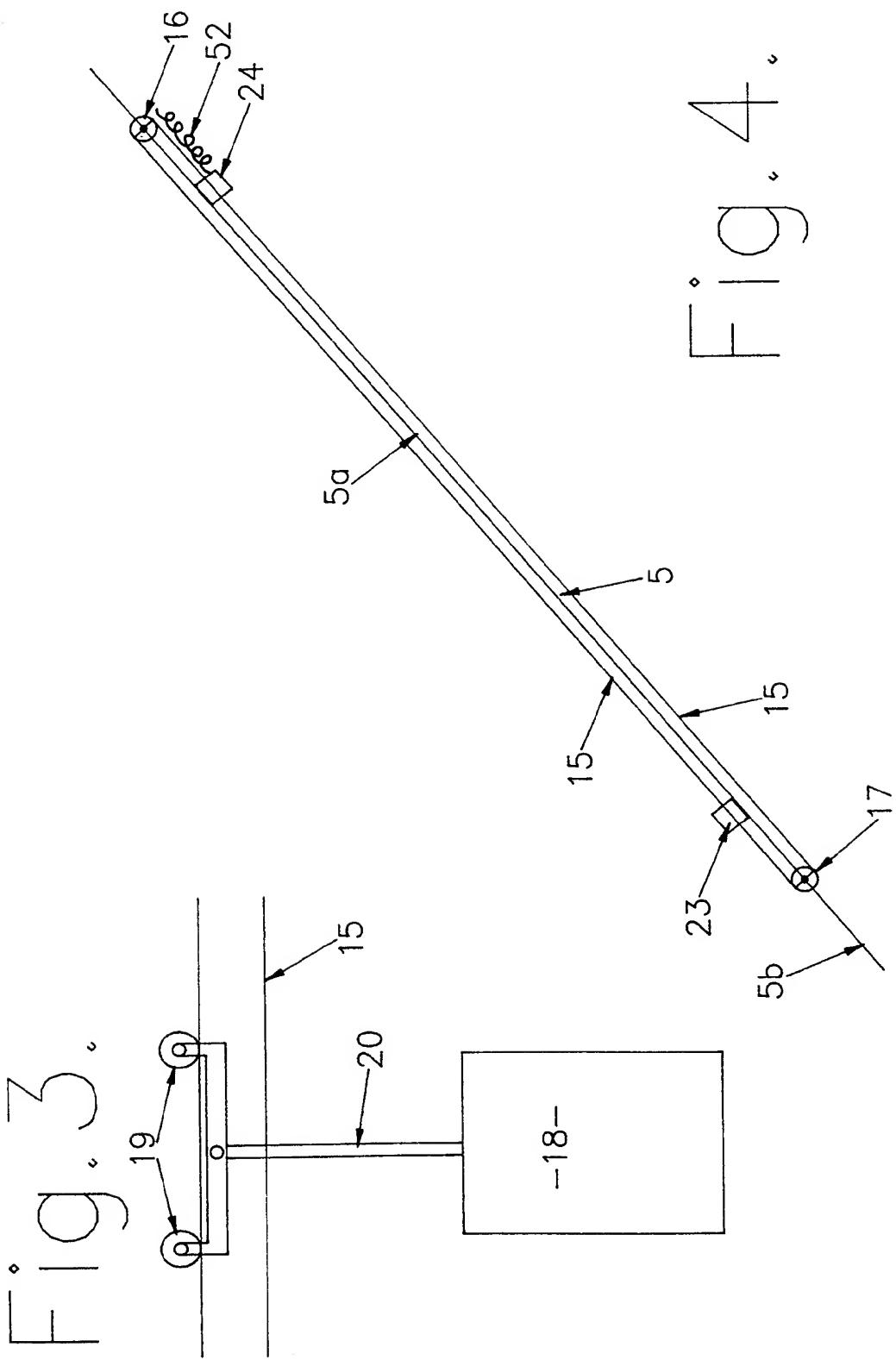
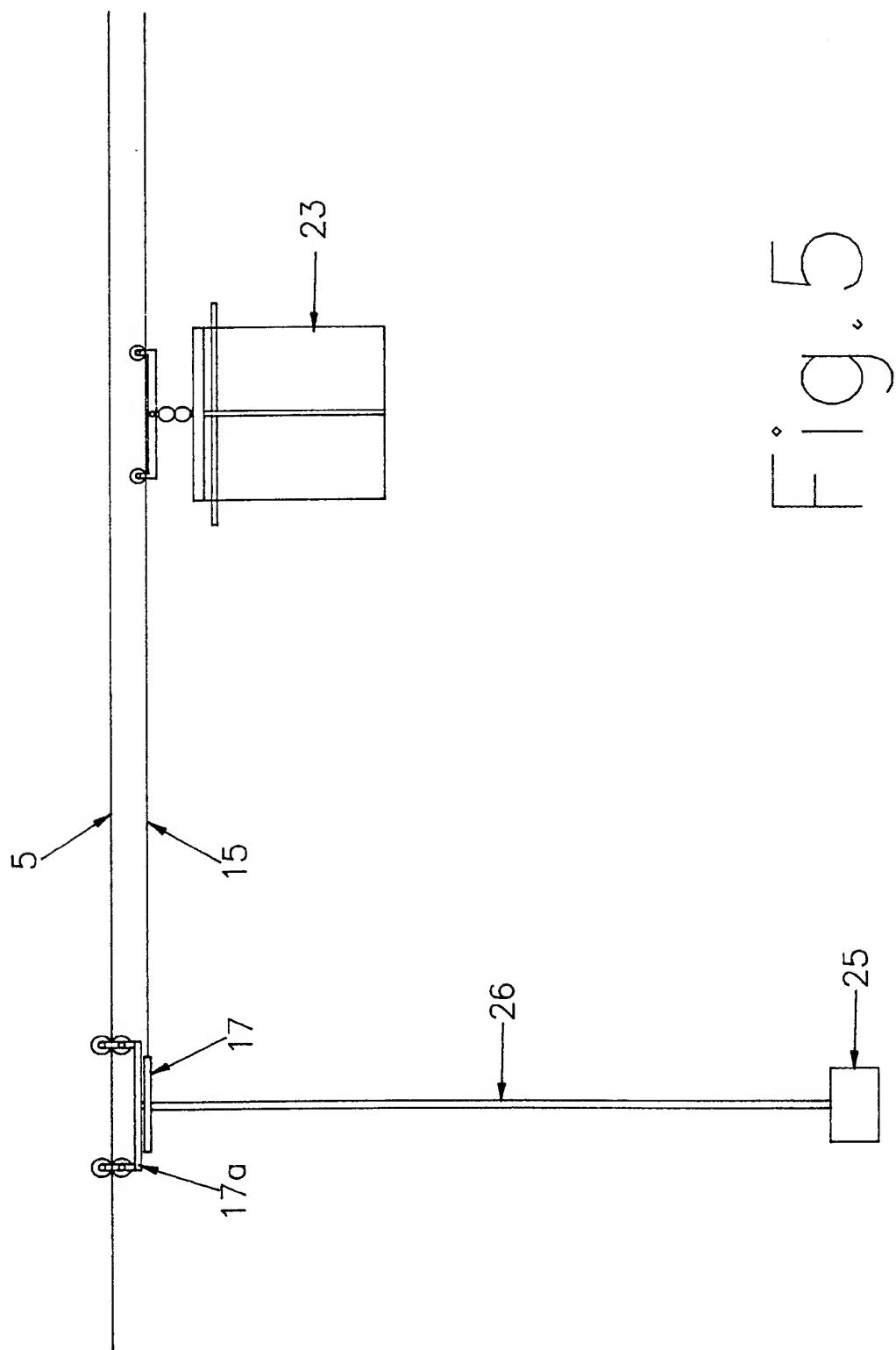


Fig. 3.





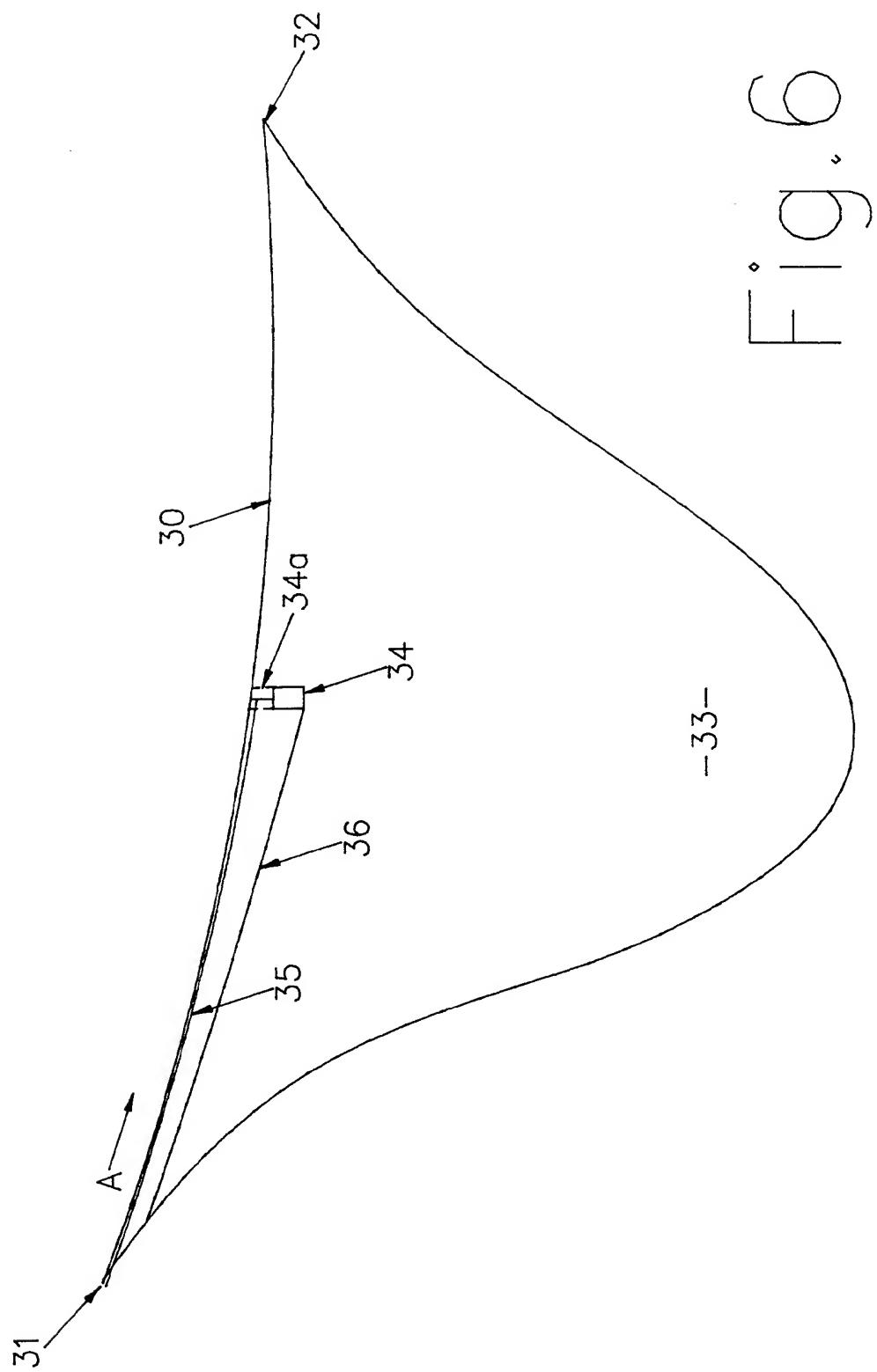
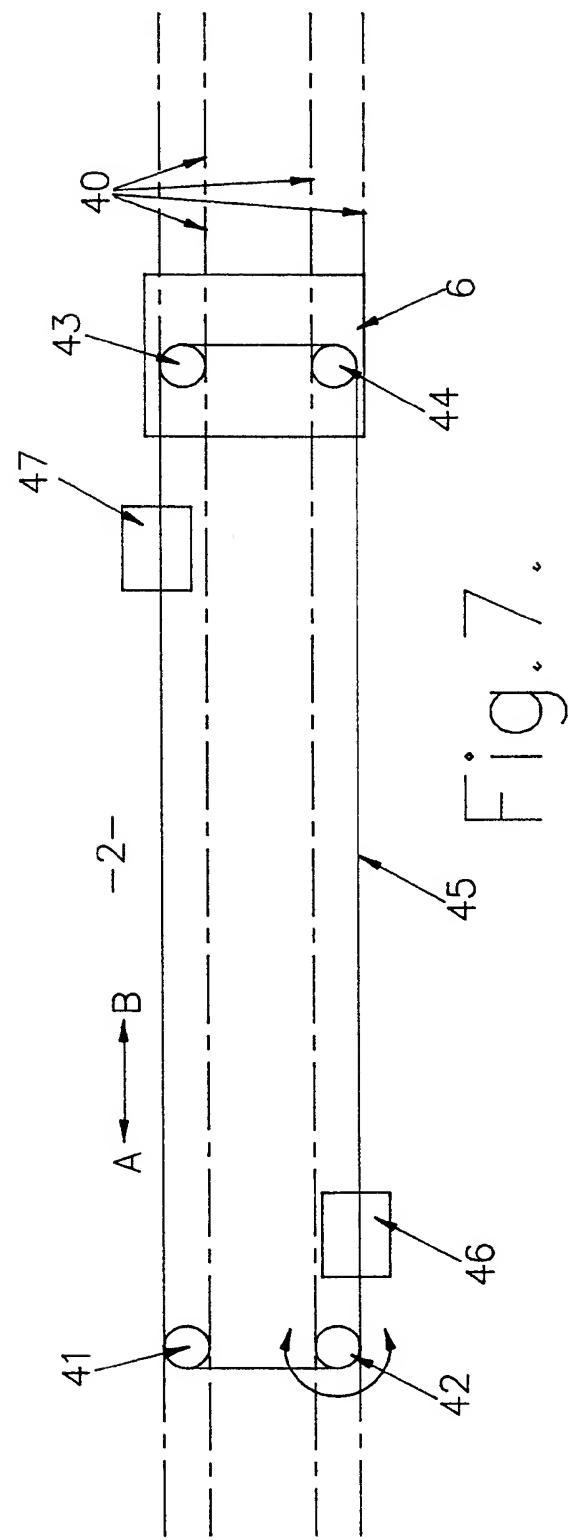
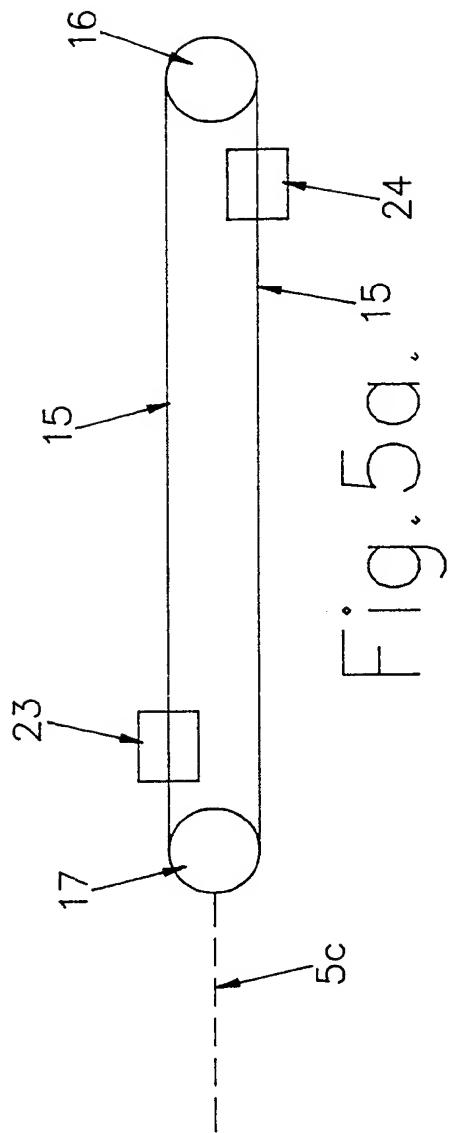


FIG. 6



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NZ 99/00100

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int Cl⁶: A63G 31/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC: A63--

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WPAT: (bungy OR bungee) AND jump

USPTO: (bungy OR bungee) AND jump

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US-A-5570638 (Egli et al.) 5 November 1996 See abstract	1 to 33
A	US-A-5427576 (Pfeiffer) 27 June 1995 See abstract	1 to 33
A	WO-A-92/19325 (Schweizer) 12 November 1992 See abstract	1 to 33

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:		
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 23 September 1999	Date of mailing of the international search report - 6 OCT 1999
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200 WODEN ACT 2606 AUSTRALIA Facsimile No.: (02) 6285 3929	Authorized officer Michael Hardy Telephone No.: (02) 6283 2547
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/NZ 99/00100

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report				Patent Family Member			
WO	92/19325	AU	19809/92	DE	9106074		
US	5427576	AU	625033	AU	16860/92	CA	2084901
		EP	583309	JP	6507087	NZ	242634
		WO	92/20613				
US	5570638	CA	2161926	EP	710957	JP	8207750
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